

1 **CLAIMS**

2 1. A method of providing information to a computer user comprising:  
3 displaying, in a display area of a user interface, a first contextual display  
4 associated with a first context that can enable a user to accomplish one or more  
5 tasks, said displaying being accomplished using a single application program that  
6 is configured to provide multiple different contexts; and

7 without changing the first context and using the single application program,  
8 presenting quick links to one or more contexts that are different from the user's  
9 current context and that are provided by the single application program, each  
10 context being associated with a functionality that can enable the user to  
11 accomplish various tasks that are different from the one or more tasks that the user  
12 can accomplish using the first contextual display.

13  
14 2. The method of claim 1, wherein each functionality comprises a  
15 document-centric functionality.

16  
17 3. The method of claim 1, wherein each of the functionalities is  
18 different.

19  
20 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying user-engagable  
21 indicia, each of which being associated with one or more quick links, said indicia  
22 being configured for engagement by a user so that the user can view the associated  
23 one or more quick links.

1           5.     The method of claim 1, wherein said displaying is accomplished by  
2 the single application program using a single window, the application program  
3 being configured to navigate the single window between different contexts  
4 responsive to the user selecting a quick link.

5  
6           6.     The method of claim 1 further comprising prior to said presenting,  
7 automatically determining at least some of the quick links based, at least in part,  
8 on a user's behavior within the single application program.

9  
10          7.     The method of claim 1 further comprising prior to said presenting,  
11 automatically determining at least some of the quick links based, at least in part,  
12 on a user's history within the single application program.

13  
14          8.     The method of claim 1, wherein the single application program is  
15 configured with navigation instrumentalities that enable a user to navigate back  
16 and forth between the multiple different contexts.

17  
18          9.     The method of claim 8, wherein the single application program is  
19 configured with a navigation model to manage navigation activities of the user, the  
20 navigation model comprising a navigation stack.

21  
22          10.    The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
23                presenting the user with a choice of multiple different algorithms, each  
24 algorithm being configured to provide a different collection of quick links; and  
25

1        said presenting of the quick links being performed responsive to a user  
2        selecting one of the multiple different algorithms.

3  
4        **11.**    The method of claim 10, wherein one of the multiple different  
5        algorithms comprises an algorithm that presents quick links on a favorites list  
6        based on items visited most often by a user in combination with items that have  
7        been recently added by a user to a favorites list.

8  
9        **12.**    The method of claim 10, wherein one of the multiple different  
10       algorithms comprises an algorithm that presents quick links based on items visited  
11       most often by a user in combination with items that have been recently visited by a  
12       user.

13  
14       **13.**    The method of claim 10, wherein one of the algorithms comprises  
15       an algorithm that presents multiple quick links each of which representing a  
16       different document type that was the last item of a particular document type that  
17       was visited by a user

18  
19       **14.**    The method of claim 10, wherein some of the algorithms are  
20       employable across multiple different content types.

21  
22       **15.**    One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable  
23       instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:  
24       provide multiple different functionalities within the confines of a single  
25       application program, the multiple different functionalities being associated with

1 individual different document-centric tasks that can be accomplished by a user,  
2 individual document-centric tasks being associated with different document types;

3       define a single navigable window within which the different functionalities  
4 can be presented to a user so that they can accomplish a task associated with a  
5 particular functionality;

6       define individual user-engagable indicia and associate those indicia with  
7 one or more of the multiple different functionalities, each indicia being engagable  
8 by a user to display quick links that are associated with a functionality, individual  
9 quick links being associated with a document that can enable a user to accomplish  
10 a task; and

11       display one or more of the quick links associated with one functionality,  
12 while a user is engaged in a task associated with another of the functionalities,  
13 without requiring the user to change the functionality within which they are  
14 working.

15  
16       **16.**   The computer-readable media of claim 15, wherein the instructions  
17 cause the computer to display a selection of multiple different algorithms from  
18 which a user can choose and which affect the quick links that are displayed.

19  
20       **17.**   The computer-readable media of claim 16, wherein one of the  
21 multiple different algorithms comprises an algorithm that presents quick links on a  
22 favorites list based on items visited most often by a user in combination with items  
23 that have been recently added by a user to a favorites list.

1       18. The computer-readable media of claim 16, wherein one of the  
2 multiple different algorithms comprises an algorithm that presents quick links  
3 based on items visited most often by a user in combination with items that have  
4 been recently visited by a user.

5  
6       19. The computer-readable media of claim 16, wherein one of the  
7 algorithms comprises an algorithm that presents multiple quick links each of  
8 which representing a different document type that was the last item of a particular  
9 document type that was visited by a user.

10  
11       20. The computer-readable media of claim 19, wherein said algorithm  
12 that presents multiple quick links is extendable to include newly created document  
13 types.

14  
15       21. The computer-readable media of claim 16, wherein the multiple  
16 different algorithms comprise one or more of the following:

17       an algorithm that presents quick links based on items visited most often by  
18 a user in combination with items that have been recently added by a user to a  
19 favorites list;

20       an algorithm that presents quick links based on items visited most often by  
21 a user in combination with items that have been recently visited by a user; and

22       an algorithm that presents multiple quick links each of which representing a  
23 different document type that was the last item of a particular document type that  
24 was visited by a user.  
25

1       **22.**    A method of providing information to a computer user comprising:  
2       displaying a first contextual display that enables a user to accomplish a task  
3 relating to a first content type;  
4       displaying quick links associated with one or more content types that are  
5 different from the first content type; and  
6       responsive to a user selecting a particular quick link, navigating to a content  
7 type that is associated with the selected quick link to enable a user to accomplish a  
8 different task.

9  
10       **23.**    The method of claim 22, wherein all of the content types are  
11 provided by a single application program.

12  
13       **24.**    The method of claim 22, wherein all of the content types are  
14 provided by a single application program and are displayable within a single  
15 navigable window that can be navigated between the content types.

16  
17       **25.**    The method of claim 22 further comprising prior to displaying said  
18 quick links, building said quick links based on dynamically-changing information.

19  
20       **26.**    The method of claim 22 further comprising prior to displaying said  
21 quick links, building said quick links based on dynamically-changing information  
22 at least some of which is not related to any actions that the user is taking.

1           **27.**    The method of claim 22, wherein said displaying of the quick links  
2 comprises doing so using at least one algorithm that can be deployed across  
3 multiple different content types.

4  
5           **28.**    The method of claim 27, wherein one algorithm comprises an  
6 algorithm that presents quick links based on items on a favorites list visited most  
7 often by a user in combination with items that have been recently added by a user  
8 to a favorites list.

9  
10          **29.**    The method of claim 27, wherein one algorithm comprises an  
11 algorithm that presents quick links based on items visited most often by a user in  
12 combination with items that have been recently visited by a user.

13  
14          **30.**    The method of claim 27, wherein one algorithm comprises an  
15 algorithm that presents multiple quick links each of which representing a different  
16 content type that was the last item of a particular content type that was visited by a  
17 user.

18  
19          **31.**    One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable  
20 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

21           display a first contextual display that enables a user to accomplish a task  
22 relating to a first content type;

23           enable a user to select from multiple different algorithms which affect quick  
24 links that are displayed and which enable a user to navigate to other contexts, the  
25

1 algorithms being deployable across multiple different content types and  
2 comprising one or more of the following:

3 an algorithm that presents quick links based on items on a favorites  
4 list visited most often by a user in combination with items that have been recently  
5 added by a user to a favorites list;

6 an algorithm that presents quick links based on items visited most  
7 often by a user in combination with items that have been recently visited by a user;  
8 and

9 an algorithm that can present multiple quick links each of which  
10 representing a different content type that was the last item of a particular content  
11 type that was visited by a user;

12 display quick links associated with one or more content types that are  
13 different from the first content type, the quick links being displayed responsive to  
14 the user selecting a particular algorithm, all of the content types being provided by  
15 a single application program that provides a single navigable window that can be  
16 navigated between all of the content types; and

17 responsive to a user selecting a particular quick link, navigate to a content  
18 type that is associated with the selected quick link to enable a user to accomplish a  
19 different task.

20  
21 **32.** A method of providing information to a computer user comprising:  
22 receiving information that pertains to multiple different user contexts  
23 within an application program;  
24  
25



1 presenting a display to a user pertaining to a first user context within the  
2 application program, the first user context permitting the user to accomplish tasks  
3 pertaining to a first content type; and

4 displaying at least one quick link that is associated with a context that is  
5 different from the first user context, the displayed quick link being associated with  
6 said information and being associated with a different content type.

7  
8 **33.** The method of claim 32, wherein the multiple different user  
9 contexts are each associated with a different content type.

10  
11 **34.** The method of claim 32, wherein said displaying of said at least one  
12 quick link comprises displaying multiple quick links, at least some of the quick  
13 links being associated with contexts that are each associated with a different  
14 content type.

15  
16 **35.** The method of claim 32, wherein said displaying comprises  
17 displaying the at least one quick link in a drop down menu.

18  
19 **36.** The method of claim 32, wherein said displaying comprises doing  
20 so without changing content of the display that pertains to the first user context.

21  
22 **37.** The method of claim 32, wherein said information comprises  
23 information that is generated by the user.

1           **38.**    The method of claim 32, wherein said information comprises  
2 information that is not generated by the user.

3  
4           **39.**    The method of claim 32, wherein said information comprises  
5 information that can dynamically change.

6  
7           **40.**    The method of claim 32, wherein said receiving comprises receiving  
8 said information while the user is working within the first user context.

9  
10          **41.**    The method of claim 32 further comprising:  
11           receiving user input that selects a displayed quick link; and  
12           presenting a display to the user pertaining to a context that is associated  
13 with the selected quick link.

14  
15          **42.**    One or more computers programmed with instructions that cause the  
16 computers, when executing the instructions, to:

17           execute an application that is configured to provide multiple different  
18 functionalities that can enable a user to accomplish multiple different tasks,  
19 individual functionalities being associated with different document types;

20           enable the user to accomplish a task within one of the functionalities and,  
21 while doing so, display one or more quick links that are associated with other  
22 different functionalities, individual quick links being engagable by the user to  
23 navigate to a document type that is associated with that quick link;

24           navigate the user to a item from a particular document type when the user  
25 engages a quick link associated with that document type.

1  
2       **43.**     A computing system comprising:

3       a single application program configured to provide:

4             a single navigable window;

5             multiple different functionalities to which the single navigable  
6       window can be navigated by a user; and

7             multiple quick links that are associated with one or more of the  
8       multiple different functionalities, individual quick links being displayable  
9       and engagable by a user to navigate the single navigable window to the  
10      functionalities that are associated with a quick link.

11  
12       **44.**     The computing system of claim 43, wherein at least some of the  
13      different functionalities are associated with different content types.

14  
15       **45.**     The computing system of claim 43, wherein the single application  
16      program is configured to provide multiple different algorithms that are selectable  
17      by the user to automatically change quick links that are displayed for them.

18  
19       **46.**     The computing system of claim 45, wherein at least some of the  
20      different algorithms can display links to different content types.

21  
22       **47.**     The computing system of claim 45, wherein at least some of the  
23      different algorithms are configured for use across different content types.

1       **48.**    The computing system of claim 47, wherein one of the algorithms  
2 comprises an algorithm that presents quick links based on items on a favorites list  
3 visited most often by a user in combination with items that have been recently  
4 added by a user to a favorites list.

5  
6       **49.**    The computing system of claim 47, wherein one of the algorithms  
7 comprises an algorithm that presents quick links based on items visited most often  
8 by a user in combination with items that have been recently visited by a user.

9  
10       **50.**   The computing system of claim 47, wherein one of the algorithms  
11 comprises an algorithm that can present multiple quick links each of which  
12 representing a different content type that was the last item of a particular content  
13 type that was visited by a user.

14  
15       **51.**    The computing system of claim 43, wherein the single application  
16 program is configured to provide a navigation model that manages the user's  
17 navigation activities within the single application program.

18  
19       **52.**    The computing system of claim 51, wherein the navigation model  
20 comprises a back-and-truncate stack.

21  
22       **53.**    Software code embodied on a computer-readable medium which,  
23 when executed by a computer, provides a user interface (UI) comprising:

24       a single window that is capable of being navigated to and between multiple  
25 different functionalities that enable a user to accomplish multiple tasks in

1 connection with a single application that provides the multiple different  
2 functionalities;

3 links associated with the different functionalities and configured to enable  
4 the user to navigate the single window to and between the multiple different  
5 functionalities; and

6 user-engagable indicia associated with one or more of the links, the user-  
7 engagable indicia being engagable by a user to display quick links that are  
8 associated with a particular functionality, the quick links being engagable by the  
9 user to automatically navigate the single window to a functionality with which the  
10 quick link is associated.

11  
12 **54.** The software code of claim 53, wherein the UI further comprises at  
13 least one command area that is configured to present context-sensitive commands  
14 that automatically change as the user's context changes when they navigate to and  
15 between the multiple different functionalities.

16  
17 **55.** The software code of claim 54, wherein said at least one command  
18 area is configured to display a context block that contains multiple algorithms  
19 from which a user can select to vary a list of quick links that are displayed for the  
20 user.

21  
22 **56.** The software code of claim 55, wherein at least some of the  
23 algorithms are employable with different content types.

1           **57.**    The software code of claim 53, wherein the UI further comprises  
2 browser-like navigation buttons that are engagable by the user for navigating to  
3 and between the multiple different functionalities.

4  
5           **58.**    A computer embodying the computer-readable medium of claim 53.  
6

7           **59.**    A method of displaying quick links to user information comprising:  
8       displaying multiple different algorithms from which a user can select, the  
9 algorithms being configured to display quick links to which a user can navigate,  
10 individual algorithms being employable across different content types;  
11       receiving a user selection of an individual algorithm; and  
12       responsive to receiving the user selection, displaying one or more quick  
13 links that are provided by the selected algorithm.  
14

15           **60.**    The method of claim 59, wherein individual algorithms are  
16 configured to process dynamically changing information to determine which quick  
17 links to display.  
18

19           **61.**    The method of claim 59, wherein said acts of displaying the multiple  
20 different algorithms, receiving the user selection, and displaying the one or more  
21 quick links are performed by a single application program that is configured to  
22 provide multiple different functionalities that can enable a user to accomplish  
23 multiple different tasks, individual quick links being associated with individual  
24 functionalities.  
25

62. The method of claim 61, wherein the single application program is configured to provide a single navigable window that can be navigated to and between the multiple different functionalities.

63. The method of claim 59, wherein one of the algorithms is a top favorites algorithm that enables the user to view quick links associated with items on a favorites list that have been visited most often by the user as well as items that have been most recently added to a user's favorites list.

64. The method of claim 59, wherein one of the algorithms is a suggested favorites algorithm that enables the user to view quick links associated with items that have been visited most often by the user as well as items that have been most recently visited by the user.

65. The method of claim 59, wherein one of the algorithms is a recent items list that is configured to display multiple items, each of which comprising a different content type that was the last item of a particular content type that was visited by a user.

66. The method of claim 59, wherein the algorithms comprise one or more of:

a top favorites algorithm that enables the user to view quick links associated with items on a favorites list that have been visited most often by the user as well as items that have been most recently added to a user's favorites list;

1 a suggested favorites algorithm that enables the user to view quick links  
2 associated with items that have been visited most often by the user as well as items  
3 that have been most recently visited by the user; and

4 a recent items list that is configured to display multiple items, each of  
5 which comprising a different content type that was the last item of a particular  
6 content type that was visited by a user.

7  
8 **67.** One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable  
9 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer  
10 to implement the method of claim 59.

11  
12 **68.** One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable  
13 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

14 display multiple different algorithms from which a user can select, the  
15 algorithms being configured to display quick links to which a user can navigate,  
16 individual algorithms being employable across different content types and  
17 comprising one or more of the following:

18 a top favorites algorithm that enables the user to view quick links  
19 associated with items that have been visited most often by the user as well  
20 as items that have been most recently added to a user's favorites list;

21 a suggested favorites algorithm that enables the user to view quick  
22 links associated with items that have been visited most often by the user as  
23 well as items that have been most recently visited by the user; and  
24  
25



1 a recent items list that is configured to display multiple items, each  
2 of which comprising a different content type that was the last item of a  
3 particular content type that was visited by a user;  
4 receive a user selection of an individual algorithm; and  
5 responsive to receiving the user selection, display one or more quick links  
6 that are provided by the selected algorithm.

7  
8 **69.** A method of ascertaining quick links to user information  
9 comprising:

10 providing a ranked list of favorite links, the list being based upon the  
11 recency and frequency with which a user accesses items associated with the links;

12 providing a most recently added favorites list of links that is based upon  
13 when particular links were added to a user's favorites list; and

14 calculating a union of the lists to provide a collection of favorite quick  
15 links.

16  
17 **70.** The method of claim 69, wherein the ranked list of favorite links is  
18 provided by calculating a weighted score for each link that considers the number  
19 of times a user accessed an item associated with the link, the score weighting more  
20 recent link accesses heavier than less recent link accesses.

21  
22 **71.** One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable  
23 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method  
24 of claim 69.  
25

1       72. A method of ascertaining quick links to user information  
2 comprising:

3       maintaining a database that contains information describing various user  
4 favorite links, the information containing data pertaining to a user's link access  
5 frequency and when the links were added to the database;

6       running a first database query that identifies and ranks most frequently  
7 accessed links;

8       running a second database query that identifies most recently added  
9 favorites; and

10       calculating a union of the first and second database queries to provide quick  
11 links comprising a top favorites list.

12  
13       73. The method of claim 72 further comprising running the first and  
14 second queries across multiple content types.

15  
16       74. One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable  
17 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method  
18 of claim 72.

19  
20       75. A method of ascertaining quick links to user information  
21 comprising:

22       providing a ranked list of favorite links, the list being based upon the  
23 frequency with which a user accesses items associated with the links;

24       providing a most recently accessed favorites list of links that is based upon  
25 when particular links were last accessed by a user; and

1 calculating a union of the lists to provide a collection of favorite quick  
2 links.

3  
4 76. The method of claim 75, wherein the ranked list of favorite links is  
5 provided by calculating a weighted score for each link that considers the number  
6 of times a user accessed an item associated with the link, the score weighting more  
7 recent link accesses heavier than less recent link accesses.

8  
9 77. One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable  
10 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method  
11 of claim 75.

12  
13 78. A method of ascertaining quick links to user information  
14 comprising:

15 maintaining a database that contains information describing various user  
16 visited links, the information containing data pertaining to a user's link access  
17 frequency and when the links were last accessed by the user;

18 running a first database query that identifies and ranks most frequently  
19 accessed links;

20 running a second database query that identifies most recently accessed  
21 links; and

22 calculating a union of the first and second database queries to provide quick  
23 links comprising a suggested favorites list.

24

25

1           **79.**   The method of claim 78 further comprising running the first and  
2 second queries across multiple content types.

3  
4           **80.**   One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable  
5 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method  
6 of claim 78.

7  
8           **81.**   A method of ascertaining quick links to user information  
9 comprising:

10           maintaining, for multiple different content types, information pertaining to  
11 one or more of a last document of a particular content type that was accessed by a  
12 user;

13           storing a link for the one or more last documents; and

14           displaying a list for a user comprising the stored links.

15  
16           **82.**   The method of claim 81, wherein said acts of maintaining, storing,  
17 and displaying are performed by a single application program that supports the  
18 multiple different content types.

19  
20           **83.**   The method of claim 81 further comprising, prior to said displaying,  
21 ascertaining whether any of the links are already displayable in connection with a  
22 drop down menu for a navigation button and, if so, not displaying those links in  
23 the list.

